



“European Meat Companies Panorama 2025”

European Top 100 Slaughter Companies
5th edition

Proposal
April 2025

Contacts: Rupert Claxton | Richard Brown | François Cadudal
rclaxton@girafood.com | rbrown@girafood.com | fcadudal@girafood.com

Scope:

Products Companies

Pigmeat, Poultrymeat, Beef & Sheepmeat based: slaughter capacity, utilisation, location and their other operations along the value chain.
Profiles of the top 100 firms by slaughter volume: regardless of where in the EU they are based, and what species they are focused on.
Any company slaughtering in the EU27+UK.

Countries

Short country profiles: The key EU27+UK countries, covering the consolidation of the slaughter industry by species in each, and how the industry is developing.

Timeline

2024 data where available and using Gira's previous Top 100 from 2020 as a reference point for development.

Content:

Synthesis Report (30 pages approx.)

- ◆ **League tables + analysis of the Top 100 meat companies in the EU27+UK (Red and Poultry meat).**
 - Final Pan-EU view of consolidation and structure; what next for the EU slaughter industry?
 - Strategic insight on what is changing in the structure of EU slaughtering, similarities between species and crucially what is changing: ownership, scale, integration, multi-species or international diversification, what could it all mean for future production?

Country Profiles (~5 pages per country)

- ◆ **The 12 key EU27+UK countries for slaughtering.** Short profiles showing the overall market share of the leading slaughter companies in these markets by species and key trends.

Company Profiles (~5 pages per company)

- ◆ **The top 100 EU companies** by slaughter capacity. Short, insightful and informative profiles covering:
 - Species breakdown & estimated kill volume.
 - Structure: number of plants, capacities, utilisation for key slaughterhouses and locations. Other activities upstream (e.g. feed mills) or downstream (e.g. further processing)
 - Key financial indicators, employee numbers and ownership.

Gira's Slaughter Plant Directory



- ◆ **EU Slaughter Plants with key data:** beyond the Top 100 Companies
 - Extensive searchable list of registered slaughter plants (Excel format)
 - EU slaughter plants, location, plant ID numbers, species – with more detail on the Top 100 companies.
- ◆ **Publication webinar** (live & recorded) highlighting the study's key research conclusions and insights
 - Enables clients to maximise value from the research and disseminate insights to key staff.

Webinar

Deliverables & Cost:

Report Electronic, printable & searchable PDF files. The report will be in English.
Company directory Excel-based complete searchable Gira directory for European slaughter and cutting plants.
Cost **12,500** EUR (before any applicable tax) Founder Client price for the full report.

Executive Summary Overview	2
1. Introduction	4
2. Study Objectives	5
3. Scope & Coverage	6
4. Structure & contents of the reports	7
5. Timing and Subscription	8
6. Gira's meat-sector clients	9

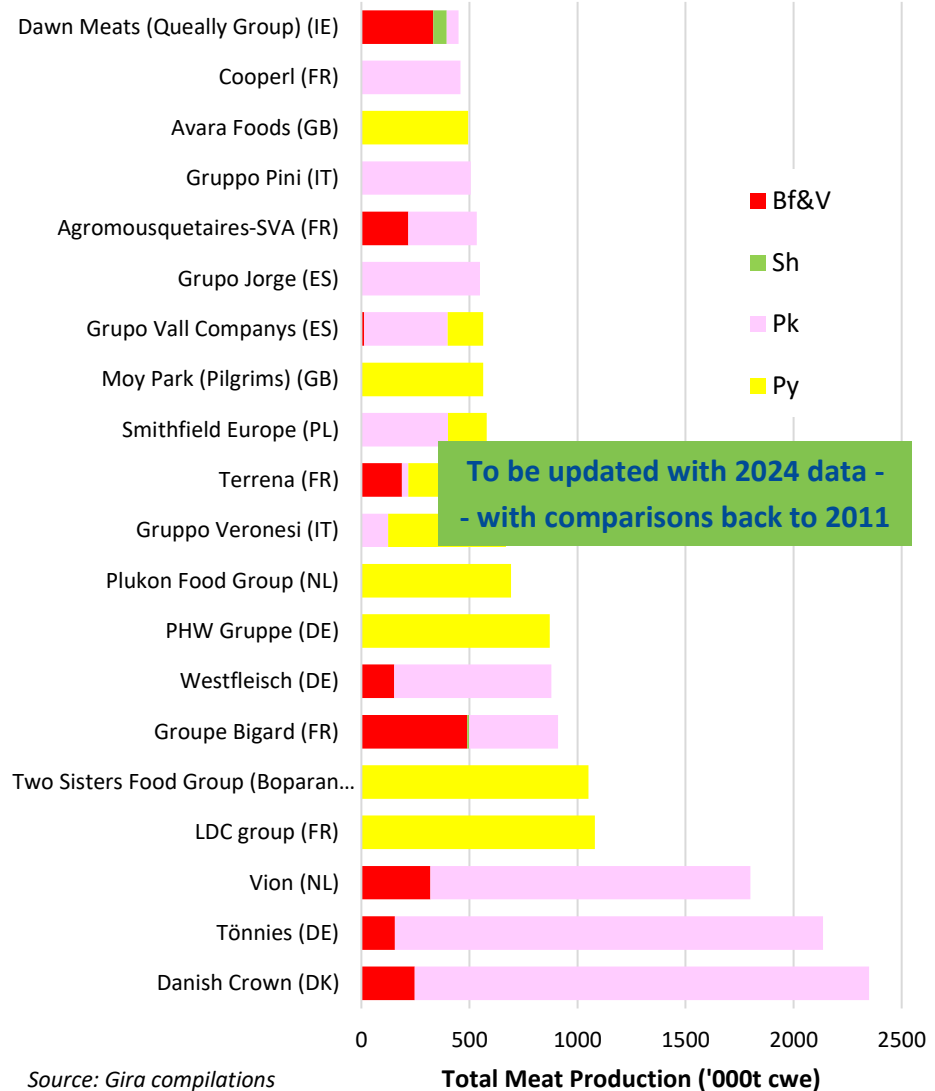
1. Introduction: Why buy this study?

Successful slaughter firms are crucial to the future of the European meat chain and those who depend on it. The ownership, strategies and reach of the top players are **changing dramatically** as they face a powerful combination of changing consumer markets, dwindling livestock numbers, sharply increased operating costs and more competition in 3rd country markets.

- There are **vast differences** in the structure & integration, ownership, size, species mix and geographic coverage of the leading European meat companies: but everywhere the industry is concentrating on fewer companies.
 - Where is their labour cost advantage? Will automation change this?
 - What are the scale and integration benefits?
- Excess capacity, low profitability, surging labour costs and regulatory pressures are already forcing a **significant restructuring** of European slaughtering, with plant closures and M&A in the last 2-3 years. These involve all the main players: but scale and even secure long-term ownership is no guarantee of success as recent news bears witness.
 - Who are the likely winners and losers, and why?
- Declining livestock numbers** across Europe exacerbate pressure on processors.
 - Low producer profitability and the rising cost of ever more demanding environmental and AW programmes dampen farmer confidence and demotivate succession.
 - What impact of the surging livestock prices? Can this trend continue, or will prices rise further ... or fall?
- Increasing diversification** from their core slaughtering activity, especially down and up their meat chains. However red meat companies tend to avoid poultry and vice versa, although there are a few notable exceptions. Is this changing? why?
- Changing meat demand in Europe** favours convenience and chicken: what opportunities and threats for primary processors?
- There is also **no truly pan-European operator** in slaughtering, although several of the leading companies do have operations in multiple markets, and most would sell across Europe. Is the industry's maturity likely to lead to international expansion within Europe, or even at a wider global level?
- The **size, sophistication and protected nature of the EU market** from lower-cost imports from 3rd countries continue to attract inward investment, with CPF and JBS amongst the global leaders investing in European processing.

This will be the 5th edition of Gira's unique Meat Company Panorama. It will describe the current situation and probe the future: helpful for everyone in the supply chain.

Top 20 European meat companies by meat production volume 2019



Source: Gira compilations

Total Meat Production ('000t cwe)

The key objective is to explain the future structure and strategic condition of the European slaughter industry, and its key players: especially concerning their capacity utilisation. To do this we will profile the top 100 companies, assess their capacity and throughputs, how they are organised up and downstream of their slaughtering operations, and if they are expanding or contracting as a group. The slaughtering sector is the pivotal link in the meat supply chain, the pressure it is now under is driving changes across the entire European meat sector that will have medium-term ramifications.

To cover this, Gira will look to its existing database on the EU slaughter industry and then update and build this out to the new reality, in the process developing a database of Europe's slaughterhouses (big and small). This will then be put against the wider industry issues, to have a view of the companies against the wider background of the sector.

For this, we will carry out the following sub-analyses:

- Initial analysis of the lists of European slaughter plants to narrow the research field and identify a **preliminary Top 100+**
- **Factual profiles** of the core activities of the major meat processors:
 - What do they kill, how much, in which countries and through how many plants?
 - The aim is to provide information on capacity and plant utilisation.
 - Do they have an integrated structure, forward and backward? How is their value chain organised?
 - How do they operate, financially and physically?
- **Country perspective:** Using Gira's existing datasets on slaughtering in the EU? How consolidated is the slaughter industry in each? What are the main drivers behind recent and future developments?
- **Strategic European Overview:** what is the strategic situation and outlook for slaughtering in the EU27 + UK?
 - Segmentation by species. Who are the major operators in each of the Pigs, Poultry, Cattle and Sheep slaughtering?
 - What has changed in the last 5 years? Recent winners and losers, and why.
 - Where is the EU slaughter sector under pressure today, and why?
 - What is the outcome going to be over the next 5 years?

The research will be documented in a PowerPoint-based report of 3 main parts:

- 1) Profiles of the leading 100 companies and the key information behind them.
- 2) Country overviews for the 8 Key EU-producing countries and fact sheets for 4 minor countries.
- 3) Pan-European Synthesis Report.



Synthesis report

Overview of the dynamics shaping the EU+UK slaughter industry:

- How is the EU+UK slaughter industry structured, and what is driving its evolution?
- Key differences by country and macro-regions.

Gira's unique Top 100 league table of slaughtering in the EU+UK

- Subsets by species, which sector is the most concentrated and/or integrated, and where in Europe is it centred.

Country profiles

Short profiles detailing the structure and context of the slaughter industry in the key EU27+UK meat markets.

- 12 country profiles: DE, FR, UK, ES, IE, DK, NL, PL, IT, BE, HU, RO
- Meat production and demand context and dynamics.
- Meat processing industry structure & dynamics.
- Concentration by species (key companies): pork, poultry and beef.

Product: Species coverage

Slaughter industry for cattle, pigs and poultry in all of the EU27+UK;

- The main operators in the EU+UK by slaughter volume (cwe).

Sheep slaughtering in the UK, Ireland and France only.

- The study will not cover sheep in other EU+UK markets.

Top 100 EU Company Profiles

The Top 100 slaughter companies in the EU27+UK;

- Short, factual profiles on each of the Top 100 companies: the length of which will reflect their size, complexity and importance
- Volume estimates of slaughtering capacity and activity by species and country.
- Summary description of ownership, financials & business development.
- Summary description of other activities directly related to the meat value chain (e.g. feed mills, further processing, etc.)

Not covered in this report:

The focus of this report is the EU27+UK slaughter companies and their alignment. Therefore, the following will not be covered:

- Companies involved only in further processing and without kill capacities.
- Detail of activity outside of Europe, other than its relevance in the overall group strategy.
- Country profiles on: AT, BG, CY, CZ, EE, FI, GR, HR, LT, LU, LV, MT, PT, SE, SL, SK.

NEW

feature

Gira's Slaughter Plant Directory - complete list of the top 100 companies and their slaughter assets plus outlying slaughter plants by species (Excel)

Webinar – on publication

The key facts & figures, drivers & brakes, and the sector outlook – as described in the report.

- Key drivers for change: what areas are thriving, and why?
- What are the implications for the EU+UK meat sector's medium-term prospects?

Timing:

The project can be completed over 3 months of elapsed time after launch.

Assuming an April start, then the expected release date of the final study is scheduled for July 2025 with the webinar delivered in September 2025.

Subscription:

The subscription price for the founder member of the complete study is **12,500 EUR** (before any tax). This will increase after publication. The price includes:

- The Synthesis volume in PDF format - including the league tables.
- 12 Country Profiles in PDF format.
- 100 Company Profiles in PDF format.
- Gira's Slaughter Plant Directory (Excel format)
- Webinar, after publication.

Payment will be requested 50% on launch of the project and 50% on delivery of the reports. In the unlikely event that the project cannot be funded, then Gira will cancel the contracts, and any pre-payments will be refunded.

Gira's Slaughter Plant Directory (in a searchable Excel format):

The complete Gira directory of EU slaughter and cutting plants. **6,000 EUR** for the searchable Excel.

- This option does not include the Top 100 profiles, ranking, or follow-up webinar.

Reasonable endeavours:

The Gira team will work on this project on a reasonable endeavour basis, and with normal hold-harmless protection.

We are aware that our role is to give clear, professional, focused, commercial opinions and advice.

Gira will utilise a combination of its key European meat specialists on this project. The project will be managed by Francois Cadudal, with inputs from Rupert Claxton and Richard Brown.

Client	Country
Abbott Laboratories	Intl.
ABF	UK
ABP	IE/UK
Agri Ranch	US
Agrifirm	NL
Agroeco	RU
AHDB	UK
Alic	JP
AMIC	AU
Animex (Smithfield)	PL & Intl.
Asoporcicultores	CO
Australian Pork Ltd.	AU
AVEC (European Poultry Association)	EU
Aviagen	Intl.
Bain	Intl.
Bemis	Intl.
Bounty	PH
BRF	BR - Intl.
Bunge	Intl.
Canada Beef	CA
Canada Pork	CA
Canadian Cattleman's Assoc	CA
Cargill Inc	US
Cargill Meats Europe	EU
Cobb	Intl.
CP Foods	Intl.
CFG (Campofrio Food Group)	EU
COV	NL
Crédit Agricole	FR
Danish Crown	DK

Client	Country
Danish Farmers Abroad	DK
Dawn Meats	IE/UK
Devro	UK
DSM Nutritional Products	Intl.
DuPont	Intl.
EFFAT	EU
Elanco	EU/Intl.
European Commission	EU
FAO	Intl.
FECIC (Catalan Meat Industry Association)	ES
Fedegan	CO
Fenavi	CO
Foss	DK
Fulton Market Group	USA
Handtmann	DE
HCC	UK (Wales)
Hilton Food Group	UK/EU
IFC (World Bank)	Intl.
I.M.S.	Intl.
INAC	UY
Inalca/Cremonini	IT
Inaporc	FR
Ingredion	DE
Interbev	FR
Irish Food Board (Bord Bia)	IE
JAPFA	Asia
JBS	BR - Intl.
Kemin	Intl.
Landbrug & Fødevarer	DK
LMC	UK

Client	Country
Mars	USA
McDonald's	EU
Meat & Livestock Australia	AU
Meat Industry Association NZ	NZ
Minerva	BR
Multivac	Intl.
National Pork Board	US
Nutreco	NL - Intl.
O.E.C.D.	Intl.
Pfizer	Intl.
Rabobank	Intl.
Rusagro	RU
Sainsbury's	UK
Scottish Assoc'n of Meat Wholesalers	UK
Sealed Air	Intl.
Silver Fern Farms	NZ
Smithfield (WH Group)	US/CN
Teagasc	IE
TVI	DE
USB	US
UECBV	EU
Unic	IT
Unigrains	FR
United Soybean Board	US
USMEF	US
Vion	NL/DE
Virbac	FR
Visocfan	ES
VLAM	BE
Westbridge Foods (CP Foods)	UK

Contact:

Rupert Claxton

Tel: +44 1323 870137

Email: rclaxton@girafood.com

Contact:

Richard Brown

Tel: +44 1323 870144

Email: rbrown@girafood.com

Contact:

François Cadudal

Tel: +33 6 22 17 29 47

Email: fcadudal@girafood.com